243 resources. Since rice cultivation and
249 harvesting takes about four months and sugar cane takes anywhere from fifteen to seventeen months before it can be harvested, rice has gradually taken the lead. Competition for land is especially keen in the area near Taichung, where paddy fields can be used either for the cultivation of rice or of sugar cane.

243 There are four main types of rice grown on Formosa -- Ponlai rice, native rice, upland rice, and glutenous rice -- and many varieties. Ponlai rice was introduced in Formosa during the Japanese occupation because it suited the tastes of the Japanese. It remains the most popular type of rice cultivated on the island because it has a high yield and good milling quality. Ponlai rice accounts for approximately 55 per cent of current rice production.

B. Production of Sweet Potatoes

244 Sweet potatoes are the second most important food stuff produced on Formosa. They are a staple of diet and are also used as raw material for alcohol and yeast as well as for hog feed. The major part of the annual
● 251 crop of sweet potatoes is sun-dried to produce chips which can be stored with minimum waste.

36: Rowe S-4 (no date) 1955 AF1 China AF1
Formosa AD1

of 303,400 metric tons) and that of industrial salt to 67,000 metric tons (as compared to peak production of 465,000 metric tons). The production of chemical fertilizer (33,800 metric tons before the war) had come to a halt. Tea processing plants and pine apple packing plants stood deserted. In short, by V-J Day the ravages of war, materials shortages, and lack of maintenance had almost paralyzed the industry of Taiwan. The railroads had worn out no less than 1400 steel bridges which had to be classified as unsafe to use.

After V-J Day, rehabilitation work on the railroads was given a high priority. Eroded steel bridge spans were removed, worn-out sleepers and rails were replaced, road beds were reconditioned. Today, passenger traffic exceeds the peak load of the prewar period; freight traffic, after tripling itself in one year, is approaching prewar peak.

Rehabilitation of the power system made great demands on the ingenuity of the available Chinese engineers. Little foreign exchange was available with which to buy needed replacements, so that the repairs had to be accomplished by reworking obsolete and broken equipment scattered about over the island. Through tedious patching and repairing operations, and the acquisition of a few spare parts that could not be improved, they tripled generating capacity in two years. By 1951, capacity had reached an all time high of 217,000 KW. Today coal (1,451,000 metric tons in 1952), cement (389,000 tons in 1951), chemical fertilizers (more than three times prewar production), petroleum, cotton yarn (three times Japanese peak production) and cotton piece goods (four times Japanese peak production) have all surpassed prewar production figures.

The sugar industry, which, as in the past, is Taiwan's most important source of foreign exchange, has done less well by comparison with prewar standards, but not, or at least not primarily, because rehabilitation operations failed to be carried out. In 1945, 27 of 36 plants stood seriously damaged. By 1948, all the factories and plantation railways had been completely rehabilitated, and by 1950 sugar production had climbed back to 630,000 metric tons. The Taiwan Sugar Corporation's capacity is now over one million tons a year. In 1949–50, however, sugar dropped in price on the world market, and farmers turned from sugar to rice. In 1951–52, the world market price began to rise, and sugar production is gradually returning to its previous high levels.

Paper and pulp mills, machinery shops, shipbuilding, and aluminum works have, likewise, been gradually restored. Another worthwhile project has been the development of a fishery industry which has improved the Taiwanese diet (including that of the Nationalist Army) without great expenditures. American economic aid has played an important role in the rehabilitation and development of all these industries.

A labor insurance policy was put into effect on 1 March 1950. Its object is described as "safeguarding the livelihood of the workers and promoting harmonious relations between labor and management so as to ensure social security and high production." According to the Labor Insurance Regulations, all workers employed in public and private factories, mines, salt fields, communications, and public utilities in Taiwan shall be insured. It is compulsory labor insurance on a limited scale. The benefits are insurance against injury, death, maternity, disability, and old age. It also has provision for free medical clinics. This new system of social insurance was put into effect with the cooperation of the Chinese Federation of Labor, the Free China Labor League, and the Provincial General Labor Union. Their delegates also sit as members of the legislature of the provincial government.

The government has also carried out a tax reform and overhauled the tax collection system. The reform program went into effect on 1 January 1951. The number of distinct taxes was reduced from 20 to 11, leaving the income, inheritance, stamp, commodity, land, business, slaughter-house, entertainment and amusement, vehicle license, and household taxes.

C F 433 [387] [251] 499 C F 377 433 C F 257 433 C F 433 [228] C F 466 C F 651